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News Release

THREE MEXICAN CITIZENS CHARGED IN FRAUDULENT DOCUMENT RING

BOSTON—Three Mexican citizens were charged yesterday in federal court with conspiring to transfer fraudulent documents.

United States Attorney Michael J. Sullivan, Matthew J. Etre, Acting Special Agent-in-Charge of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in New England, and Leo J. Sullivan, Special Agent in Charge of the Social Security Administration in New England, announced today that Leonel Gomez, age 22, of East Boston, Arturo Gonzalez, age 24, of East Boston, and Javier Morales-Santiago, age 21, of Everett, were charged in an indictment with conspiring to transfer fraudulent documents.

The indictment alleges that from Sept. of 2004 until Dec. of 2005, Gomez, Gonzalez, and Santiago sold fraudulent social security cards and resident alien cards, or "green cards," in East Boston, Revere, Somerville, Everett, and elsewhere in Massachusetts. The indictment alleges that Gomez, Gonzalez, and Santiago sold the documents in sets for between \$100 and \$150, with one social security card and one green card in each set. The indictment also alleges that Gomez, Gonzalez, and Santiago obtained their documents from a person named Ricardo Olguin-Martinez. According to court documents accompanying the indictments, all of the defendants were arrested on Dec. 18, 2005, and have been in federal custody since then.

If convicted on these charges, Gomez, Gonzalez, and Santiago face up to 15 years imprisonment, to be followed by 3 years of supervised release and a \$250,000 fine.

The case was investigated by ICE and the Social Security Administration. It is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Nadine Pellegrini and S. Waqar Hasib of Sullivan's Major Crimes Unit.

Page 1 of 2 www.ice.gov

The details contained in the complaint are allegations. The defendant is presumed to be innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.